Virginia's Community Colleges: Helping Virginians Obtain Credentials and Jobs

Governor's Commission on Higher Education Reform, Innovation and Investment: Degree Attainment, Financial Aid, and Workforce Training Committee August 31, 2010

Mission

We give everyone the opportunity to learn and develop the right skills so lives and communities are strengthened.

Markets

- 281,000+ students served annually through credit instruction
 - 41% pursuing a transfer degree
 - 33% pursuing a career technical credential
 - 65% attending part-time
- 100,000+ people served annually through occupational non-credit instruction
- 5,000+ employers served by college education and training programs and service

Our Plan: Achieve 2015

- Access- Increase the number of individuals who are educated and trained by Virginia's Community Colleges by 50,000 to a total of 423,000, with emphasis on increasing the number from underserved populations by at least 25,000 individuals.
- **Affordability** Maintain tuition and fees at less than half of the comparable cost of attending Virginia's public four-year institutions, and increase the number of students who receive financial assistance and scholarships by 36,000.
- Student Success- Increase the number of students graduating, transferring or completing a workforce credential by 50 percent, including increasing the success of students from underserved populations by 75 percent.
- Workforce- Double the number of employer provided training and services to 10,000, with a particular focus on high-demand occupational fields.
- Resources- Raise at least \$550 million in gifts and grants to support the mission of Virginia's Community Colleges

Re-engineering Virginia's Community Colleges

- Objective: Rethink our organization and operations to afford us the resources and opportunities needed to serve our students and workforce
- Student-First Focus Ideas:
 - Redesign and streamline developmental education
 - Centralize "back-office" functions of financial aid
 - Rethink course delivery and role of faculty
 - Automate and outsource students success solutions
 - Foster a culture of "managing with productivity in mind"
 - Leverage purchasing power
 - Expand consortia and distance learning programs

Three Ideas:

Promoting Credential Attainment



Growth in VCCS Students Transferring to Four-year Institutions



Idea #1: Two-Year College Transfer Grant

Award

- To students enrolled four-year institutions
- \$1,000/yr with additional \$1,000 for students enrolled in STEM-N (Science, Teaching, Engineering, Mathematics, and Nursing)

• Eligibility:

- First-time student in fall 2007 or later
- Earn an associates degree with a 3.0 GPA and maintain GPA
- Financial need as defined by EFC of \$8,000 or less

Current success

- 240 students using transfer grant
- 29% of recipients in STEM-N fields

Projected Transfer Grants if Funding & Eligibility are Increased



Increase eligibility through:

- \$10,000 EFC
- GPA at four-year institutions to match satisfactory academic progress (SAP)

Idea #2: Middle College

- 121,000 Virginians aged 18 24 have no high school diploma or GED
- Middle College provides
 - 8 programs serving over 1,100 students last year
 - Two-thirds of participants complete GED in 1 year
 - Postsecondary participation rates of one-third to one-half among GED completers over the life of the program

Middle College

- Existing programs serve less than 1% of the target population
- Vast need for Middle College across the state
- Goal to reach 5% of 18-24 year-olds without high school degrees

Idea #3: Career Coaches

- 125 Part-time employees, located in about half of Virginia's high schools
- Last year, coaches provided individual services to 37,000 students
- Over the past three years for high schools with Coaches:
 - 5% increase in community college enrollment
 - 4% increase in Dual Enrollment students
 - 4% increase in enrollment in CTE programs at the community college, including STEM programs
- 87% of high school principles reported that program met or exceeded expectations

Career Coaches

- With a career coach in every high school
 - Reach 178,000 more students a year
 - Provide individual services to 76,000 more students a year
 - Projected 5% increase in postsecondary enrollment of those students

You Should Know: Win-Win

- 1,000,000 Virginians over age 25 with some college credit but no degree
- 9 out-of-state colleges
 - 7-month pilot
 - 592 associates degrees were awarded
 - 1,596 students, short by ≤9 credits, were added to the degree pipeline
- One quarter of Virginia's community colleges were just selected for Win-Win

You Should Know: ODU Teletechnet

- Available at 17 community college locations across the Commonwealth
- 1,900 students at Virginia's community colleges participating in 10, 219 course registrations of ODU bachelors, masters, and doctoral programs
- 5,424 degrees awarded through ODU Teletechnet program

Thank you.